



**Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas**

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 29, 1995

Ms. Coleen R. Davis
Assistant County Attorney
Ector County Courthouse
Room 201
Odessa, Texas 79761

OR95-1620

Dear Ms. Davis:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 27112.

Ector County (the "county") has received a request for information relating to its computer system. Specifically, the requestor seeks eight categories of information:

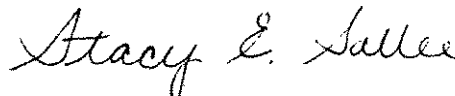
1. A list of dictionary items maintained on your computer system for the District and County Clerks offices and Justice of the Peace offices.
2. A list of the files maintained on your computer system for the District and County Clerks offices and Justice of the Peace offices.
3. Documentation to determine if a T-DUMP command is used to dump an entire file to tape, what format will that file be on tape (ascii, unix, etc)?
4. The approximate size of each file in megabytes.
5. The make and model of the tape backup units used for the courthouse miniframe. The format used to backup data to tape.
6. The approximate cost for transferring all the files available to me on tape.
7. A list of the files that I cannot have because they do not fall under the open records act (death, birth, etc).

8. A list of the fields for all the files that are available to me including the name, the length of each field and the data type of each field.

It appears that these requests seek information maintained by the judiciary. The Open Records Act does not apply to records of the judiciary. *See* Gov't Code § 552.003(b). "The Open Records Act neither authorizes information held by the judiciary to be withheld nor requires it to be disclosed, but leaves unchanged the status of that branch of government with respect to information held by it." Attorney General Opinion DM-166 (1992) at 1. Accordingly, the Open Records Act does not require the county to provide to the requestor the information requested. Access to judicial records is governed by the common-law right to inspect public records. *See id.*; Open Records Decision Nos. 618 (1993), 274 (1981).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Stacy E. Sallee
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SES/rho

Ref.: ID# 27112

cc: Mr. Marshall E. Ward
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